The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Now, the House is adjourned for lunch till 3.00 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twelve minutes past two of the clock.

3.00 P.M.

The House reassembled at six minutes past two of the clock, the Vice-Chairman (Shri John F. Fernandes) in the Chair.

THE NOTARIES AMENDMENT (BILL), 1997

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ramakant D. Khalap, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Notaries Act, 1952.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE COAST-GUARD (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1996

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Coast Guard Act, 1978, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Coast-Guard Act, 1978, came into force on 19th August 1978. This Act is an amalgam of certain provisions of the Border Security Force Act, 1968, the Army Act, 1950 and the Navy Act, 1957. The Coast Guard has been constituted for ensuring the security of the maritime zones of the country. This service keeps the nation's vast Exclusive Economic Zone of 2.2 million square kilometres and a coastline of 7,600 kilometres under regular surveillance against activities inimical and adverse to our national interests.

Based on certain deficiencies and anomalies noticed during the last 18 years in the working of the Coast Guard Act, the amendments propose to make certain changes therein, to bring some of its provisions in conformity with the provisions of the Army Act, 1950, the Navy Act, 1957 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. Therefore, in conformity with the provisions of these Acts, the amendments are brought in here. I request this august House to consider these and pass the Bill.

Sir, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): There are three amendments—one each by Shri J. Chitharanjan, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta and Shri Ramachandran Pillai—for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha. The hon. Members may move their amendments.

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): Sir, I want to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Any other Member? None? Okay.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU: Sir, already the Bill has been duly considered by a Standing Committee. The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 26th November 1996. It was thereafter referred by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, in consultation with the hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha, to the Standing Committee on Defence.